

CLAIMS

1. An e-mail retrieval system, comprising:
- an IMAP e-mail server employing an IMAP protocol;
- a thin e-mail client; and
- an IMAP server-thin e-mail client communication module enabling said thin e-mail client to retrieve e-mail from said IMAP server using said IMAP protocol.
2. An e-mail retrieval system according to claim 1 and wherein said IMAP server-thin e-mail client communication module comprises:
- a communications conversion module which converts communications from said IMAP server into a communication protocol;
- a formatting module receiving data in said communication protocol and formatting said data into formatted data for said thin client; and
- a communication server receiving said formatted data from said formatting module and transmitting said formatting data to said thin client.
3. A system according to claim 1 and wherein said thin client comprises at least one of a WAP client, a WML client and an HTML client.

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4. A system according to claim 1 and also comprising an audio browser which is operative to communicate between said thin e-mail client and said IMAP server-thin e-mail client communication module.
5. A system according to claim 4 and wherein said thin e-mail client comprises a telephone.
6. An e-mail retrieval method, comprising:
 - employing an IMAP protocol in an IMAP e-mail server; and
 - enabling a thin e-mail client to retrieve e-mail from said IMAP server using said IMAP protocol.
7. An e-mail retrieval method according to claim 7 and wherein said enabling comprises:
 - converting communications from said IMAP server into a communication protocol;
 - receiving data and formatting said data into formatted data for said thin client; and
 - receiving said formatted data and transmitting said formatting data to said thin client.
8. A method according to claim 6 and wherein said thin client comprises at least one of a WAP client, a WML client and an HTML client.
9. A method according to claim 6 and also comprising employing an audio browser to communicate between said thin e-mail client and said IMAP server.

10. A method according to claim 9 and wherein said thin e-mail client comprises a telephone.

11. An e-mail retrieval system, comprising:

a POP e-mail server employing a POP protocol;

a thin e-mail client; and

a POP server-thin e-mail client communication module enabling said thin e-mail client to retrieve e-mail from said POP server using an IMAP protocol.

12. An e-mail retrieval system according to claim 11 and wherein said POP server-thin e-mail client communication module comprises:

a POP to IMAP conversion module which converts communications from said POP server to IMAP;

a communications conversion module which converts communications from said POP to IMAP conversion module into a communication protocol;

a formatting module receiving data in said communication protocol and formatting said data into formatted data for said thin client; and

a communication server receiving said formatted data from said formatting module and transmitting said formatting data to said thin client.

13. A system according to claim 11 and wherein said thin client comprises at least one of a WAP client, a WML client and an HTML client

14. A system according to claim 12 and wherein said POP to IMAP conversion module provides functionalities not provided by said POP protocol.

15. A system according to claim 11 and also comprising an audio browser which is operative to communicate between said thin e-mail client and said POP server-thin e-mail client communication module.

16. A system according to claim 15 and wherein said thin e-mail client comprises a telephone.

17. An e-mail retrieval method, comprising:

employing a POP protocol in a POP e-mail server; and

enabling said thin e-mail client to retrieve e-mail from said POP server using an IMAP protocol.

18. An e-mail retrieval method according to claim 17 and wherein said enabling comprises:

converting communications from said POP server to IMAP;

converting communications from IMAP into a communication protocol;

receiving data and formatting said data into formatted data for said thin client; and

receiving said formatted data and transmitting said formatting data to said thin client.

19. A method according to claim 17 and wherein said enabling provides functionalities not provided by said POP protocol.

20. A method according to claim 17 and also comprising employing an audio browser to communicate between said thin e-mail client and said POP server.

21. An e-mail retrieval system, comprising:

an HTTP server employing an HTTP protocol;

a thin e-mail client; and

an HTTP server-thin e-mail client communication module enabling said thin e-mail client to retrieve e-mail from said HTTP server using an IMAP protocol.

22. An e-mail retrieval system according to claim 21 and wherein said HTTP server-thin e-mail client communication module comprises:

an HTTP to IMAP conversion module which converts communications from said HTTP server to IMAP;

a communications conversion module which converts communications from said HTTP to IMAP conversion module into a communication protocol;

a formatting module receiving data in said communication protocol and formatting said data into formatted data for said thin client; and

a communication server receiving said formatted data from said formatting module and transmitting said formatting data to said thin client.

23. A system according to claim 21 and wherein said thin client comprises at least one of a WAP client, a WML client and an HTML client

24. A system according to claim 22 and wherein said HTTP to IMAP conversion module provides functionalities not provided by said HTTP protocol.

25. A system according to claim 21 and also comprising an audio browser which is operative to communicate between said thin e-mail client and said HTTP server-thin e-mail client communication module.

26. A system according to claim 25 and wherein said thin e-mail client comprises a telephone.